

# Recycling center doing its part to achieve no trash goal

Antifreeze to laser cartridges, program takes them all

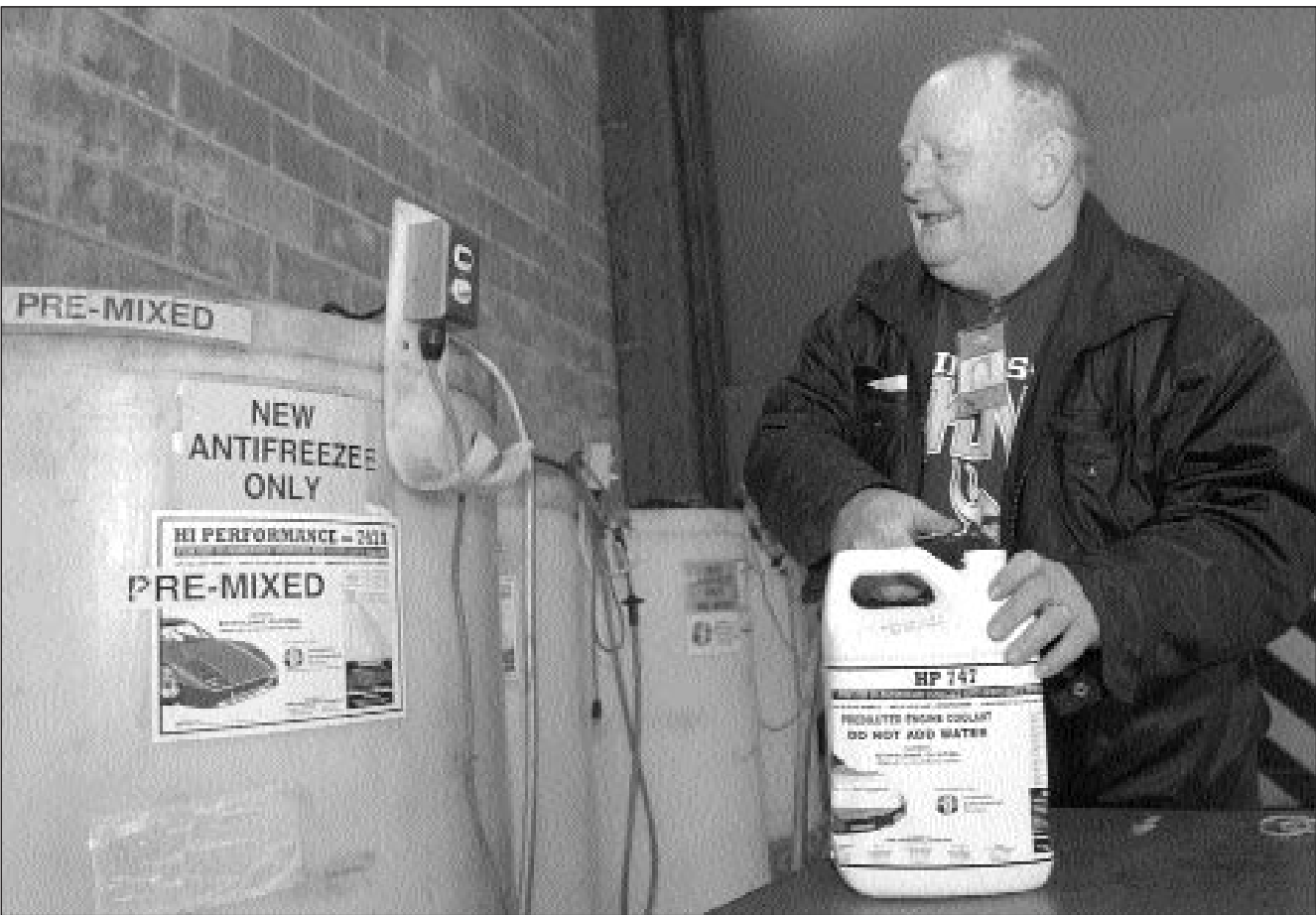
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Imagine absolutely no trash leaving the post. That's the goal Fort Lewis wants to attain within the next 25 years as part of the Installation Sustainability Program. In striving to fulfill that vision, the Fort Lewis Recycle Center has recently implemented various programs to help out Soldiers and the environment.

One of those programs directly saves Soldiers time and effort they can otherwise use to concentrate on their missions. With a delivery system provided by the pollution prevention department, all units on post can now turn in used antifreeze and receive recycled antifreeze in return. "They don't have to dispatch a truck" to recycle the antifreeze and attain a replacement, said Jana Nelson, installation recycling coordinator. "Every Soldier knows the pains of dispatching a vehicle. It's one less thing they have to concentrate on." All of this is part of the effort to cut down on waste, especially materials leaving Fort Lewis. "It's pretty much a cradle to grave" ideal, said Dan Cline, manager of the hazardous material control center.

"It's a closed-loop operation (and) it's been very successful." To help reach the zero-percent net waste goal, the recycle center recently joined the Washington State Recycling Association to potentially learn innovative ideas. "It provides us an opportunity to see what other communities are doing," said Jana Nelson, installation recycling coordinator. "Are they doing something new we don't know about?" Nelson has also recently helped set up recycling for laser cartridges. She sets up boxes in specific organizations for printer and copier cartridges, and the money she gets for the recycling goes to the Morale and Welfare Relief fund. Nelson has been trying to incorporate this program everywhere on post during the past three months. "We're beginning in our recycling effort. We'll get to you eventually," said Nelson, who encourages Soldiers to contact her for information. "Recycling is important because our landfills can only take so much. The more we divert our materials, the better off we are."

In addition, Nelson recently got the post involved in the Federal Electronics Challenge Program, which seeks to keep track of discarded computers and other electronic equipment. When a unit gets rid of its computer equipment, they are often sent to schools or prisons that need comput-



Danny Dixon, a supply technician at the Hazardous Material Control Center, fills an antifreeze container. The center uses recovered containers to distribute recycled antifreeze in a program that saves the Army \$4.10 per gallon of antifreeze.

ers before finding their way to a landfill. The post will be keeping track of that equipment because there are metals in the computers that could be dan-

gerous to the environment, particularly lead found in monitors. These types of programs "give Soldiers an awareness level that we are

out there trying to prevent more pollution from coming onto Fort Lewis, and we want to take care of our surrounding communities," said Nelson.

# New law allows Soldiers to break vehicle leases while on active duty

Provision in act designed to protect during deployment

**Capt. Holly Bryant**  
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When members of Congress passed a major revision of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act in December, they brought that act into the twenty-first century by including provisions for breaking motor vehicle leases. The new SCRA provides for National

Guard and Reserve members as well as active duty servicemembers to break motor vehicle leases in the event of entry on active duty, PCS overseas, or deployment. The new law applies to motor vehicles used or intending to be used either by servicemembers or their dependents for business or personal use. The servicemember does not have to be the person who signed the lease agreement. The lease can either be entered into prior to military service — or prior to a call to active duty under orders specifying at least 180 days of activation — or during active duty service — but prior to the receiving deployment orders for at least

180 days or orders to PCS outside the continental United States. Those reserve component servicemembers who are activated for less than 180 days but whose service is extended while they are still on active duty for a period totaling at least 180 days are also protected by the Act. The Act requires two steps to break an auto lease. First, the lessee (that is, the person leasing the car — you) must give written notice to the lessor (the company from which you lease the car) and must include the servicemember's orders. This notice does not have to be given within any particular number of days from when you receive the orders.

Once the written notice has been delivered by hand, by mail (with return receipt requested), or by other carrier, the lessee has 15 days to return the car to the lessor. If the notice has been given in advance, the lease is terminated as of the date the car is returned. Once you break the lease in the way the act requires, the lessor cannot charge an early termination fee. The lessor may collect outstanding obligations and may charge fees provided for in the lease. These may include taxes, title and registration fees, and reasonable charges for excess wear, and mileage on the vehicle. The lessor may also charge late fees and other penalties for late payments and

other charges you may have accumulated. Early termination fees are by far the most expensive part of breaking a lease; these other charges should be far less burdensome. As always, refer to your lease agreement to see what charges and fees you agreed to pay when you leased the car or truck. If you have questions, come to the Legal Assistance Office during walk-in hours all day Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., or call 967-0587 to make an appointment. We are located in Building 2027A on the corner of Liggett Avenue and N. 8th Street.